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ABSTRACT

This book provides new insights and innovative ideas that may aid governments and educational institutions in developing programs and policy frameworks for their education and training enterprises. It consists of an opening synthesis, followed by papers presented at the December 1998 "learning.now/Skills for an Information Economy" symposium. Part 1, the opening synthesis, weaves together insights from all aspects of the symposium, including the research, policy, and practice workshops, questions and comments from participants, and the formal presentations. Part 2 presents some of the conditions--such as changes in the structure of the economy--and educational trends that have driven community colleges to alter their programs and missions, as well as some that have thrown up barriers to systematic change. Part 3 describes the new learning environments created by information technologies, ranging from the individual classroom and learning company to the learning region, where ideas and knowledge flow easily across institutions and firms. The new technology has opened up possibilities for learning, but it has also altered values and attitudes of youth toward careers in ways that affect both course content and pedagogy. Part 4 describes the challenges and opportunities for community colleges as they enter into new alliances and become more proactive in economic development. (VWC)

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